

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01241 211530Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /129 W

----- 011276

R 202000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1241

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GY

SUBJECT: BURNHAM ANNOUNCES GUYANA TO HAVE AGENCY SHOP

1. DURING AUGUST 18TH ADDRESS TO DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF COMMERCIAL AND CLERICAL WORKERS UNION, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM TOLD DELEGATES LABOR HAD CONTRIBUTED TO RECENT ELECTION VICTORY AND HE ANNOUNCED HIS GOVT WOULD ENACT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING AGENCY SHOP IN GUYANA. AGENCY SHOP WILL MEAN THAT NON-UNION WORKERS WILL PAY FEE TO UNIONS WHICH ACT AS BARGAINING AGENCY FOR ALL WORKERS IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. AGENCY SHOP COULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN UNIONS AND INCREASE MEMBERSHIP DEPENDING ON HOW IT IS APPLIED. EMB OFFICER LEARNED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH PERM SEC AND CHIEF LABOR OFFICER AT MINISTRY OF LABOR THAT AT PRESENT "NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED." BURNHAM APPARENTLY MADE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND THEY ARE WAITING TO LEARN HIS INTENTIONS.

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3. ALTHOUGH PRECISE OUTCOME STILL UNCERTAIN, ACCEPTANCE OF AGENCY SHOP APPEARS TO BE ORGANIZED LABOR'S FIRST DIVIDEND FROM ITS INDORSEMENT OF BURNHAM IN JULY 16 ELECTION. BURNHAM GOVT, IN POSITION OF STRENGTH, IS LIKELY TO PROVE MORE DIFFICULT ON OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY WAGES AND PRICES POLICY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND RELEASE OF MORE ACCURATE COST OF LIVING INDEX.
SHERRY

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NNN

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